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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Azerbaijan Supports `TRNC' Despite Greek Pressure - Hurriyet
Israel, Pakistan Handshake in Istanbul - Hurriyet
EU Postpones Vote on Counter-Declaration - Hurriyet
Turkey Criticized on Pamuk Case - Hurriyet
Historic Summit in Istanbul - Milliyet
Gul: We will not Open Our Ports to Greek Cypriots - Milliyet
Bomb Explosion Kills Terrorist in Bursa - Milliyet
Cyprus Pressure at EU Summit - Sabah
First Women Religious Affairs Officials Appointed - Milliyet
No Obstacles Before October 3 Accession Talks - Milliyet
PKK Gains Supporters in Europe - Aksam
A New Role for Turkey in the Middle East - Vatan
EU Counter-Declaration Postponed Until Next Week - Vatan

OPINION MAKERS

EU Does Not Present Turkey With New Conditions - Radikal
Denmark Responds to General Buyukanit on Roj-TV - Radikal
Gul: Turkey will not Allow Itself to be Exploited -Radikal
EU Pressures Ankara to Recognize Cyprus - Cumhuriyet
Denmark Waits for Evidence on Roj-TV - Cumhuriyet
Sakra Had Been Planning to Meet Suicide Bombers in Istanbul
- Zaman

BRIEFING

EU Accession: All papers today gave extensive coverage to yesterday's meeting of EU foreign ministers in Wales. The ministers are reportedly working on a declaration that would increase pressure on Turkey to opens its ports and airports to Greek Cypriots and, ultimately, to recognize Cyprus. "Hurriyet" reports that France is insisting on Turkey's full recognition of Cyprus, but adds that the French say they are not planning to block the start of EU accession talks with Turkey now scheduled for October 3. "Sabah" claims that the talks have reached an impasse over the Cyprus issue, thereby delaying the release of the counter-declaration for at least a week. At a press conference prior to his departure for the UK, Gul said that `Turkey has fulfilled all the objective criteria for the start of negotiations, and now expects EU members to keep the promises they made on December 17. I believe that negotiations will begin on October 3 as planned.' "Turkiye" and "Radikal" quote FM Gul as saying that `no one should use Turkey for their domestic political aims. We will not allow Turkey to be exploited by anyone.' Gul added that `things that are expected from full members of the EU should not be expected of those in the process of seeking membership. Ports and airports are part of the service sector. Everyone knows the meaning of the Customs Union.' Turkish dailies report that Prime Minister Erdogan, speaking during his visit to Italy, reiterated yesterday that Turkey will not accept any new conditions for the start of talks with the EU.

Jones-Abizaid Visit: "Cumhuriyet" reports that CENTCOM Commander General John Abizaid and EUCOM Commander General James Jones will visit Ankara September 8-9 to discuss the PKK presence in Iraq with Turkish military leaders. Citing diplomatic sources, the paper claims that the Turkish side is preparing a report to present to the generals detailing PKK activities in Iraq, and urging the United States to prevent PKK infiltration from Iraq into Turkey and to `clean out' PKK camps in the Kandil Mountains.

Arinc Speaks on "Kurdish Problem": Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc said that people should become hung up on the term `Kurdish problem,' which the Prime Minister mentioned during his recent visit to Diyarbakir. `Turkey has a Kurdish problem, or a terrorism problem, or a southeast problem,' the speaker said. `The important thing is that we need to take courageous measure to resolve it,' he added. Arinc said that such measures should include `more freedom and more democracy.'

Denmark Waits for Evidence on Roj TV: Several papers report that Danish Ambassador Christian Hoppe said that Turkey had never approached him with a complaint about Roj-TV, which is alleged to have affiliations with the PKK and broadcasts from Denmark. Ambassador Hoppe stressed that Denmark recognizes that the PKK is a terrorist organization, and said his country is open to talks with Turkey regarding ROJ-TV if it is shown to be a mouthpiece for the PKK.

The Hizbullah Debate: "Hurriyet" and "Milliyet" report about the ongoing debate over the origins of Turkish Hizbullah following a claim by Turkish Air Force Commander General Faruk Comert that he had warned the governor of Diyarbakir back in the 1990s that it was dangerous for the state to use Hizbullah against the PKK. Former Interior Ministry undersecretary Muzaffer Ecemis rejected Comert's claims, pointing out that he had been the governor in Diyarbakir during the period under discussion. Ecemis denied that he had been visited or warned by General Comert. Ecemis said that the state has its own forces to fight against terrorist organizations, and would never use one terrorist organization against another.

Terror in Bursa: "Milliyet" reports that a 27-year-old man died in bomb blast when the explosives he was carrying detonated before he could reach his intended target. The man, identified as Bulent Akcicek, was apparently planning to place the bomb in a nearby metro station. Police said that Akcicek was affiliated with the Selef Group, an organization with ties to al-Qaida that probably played a role in the Istanbul bombings of November 2003.

PKK Cultural Activities in Europe: "Aksam" reports on its front page that the PKK is stepping up its social and cultural activities in European countries at the same time it is increasing its bloody attacks in Turkey. For example, the PKK is organizing a bicycle tour in Germany under the slogan 'Free Ocalan.' Kurdish associations have arranged a football tournament and a march from Brussels to Cologne to raise funds for the 'free Ocalan' campaign. Remzi Kartal, a suspected PKK leader who is wanted by Interpol, was present for the start of the march.

Israel-Pakistan Meeting in Istanbul: All papers report on the meeting held yesterday in Istanbul between the foreign ministers of Israel and Pakistan. "Milliyet" notes that this was the first ever high-level diplomatic meeting between the two countries. Turkish State Minister Mehmet Aydin and Prime Ministry advisor Egemen Bagis hosted the meeting on behalf of PM Erdogan. "Sabah" says the meeting represents an important step for peace in Middle East. "Radikal" claims that the meeting was the result of a 'two-year effort' by Prime Minister Erdogan to mediate open diplomatic contact between the two countries. "Vatan" also praises Turkey's role as a mediator between two countries that have remained hostile to one another 57 years. Papers highlight international press coverage of the meeting, stressing in particular the role played by Turkey as a 'bridge of peace' in the Middle East.

Orhan Pamuk Case: "Hurriyet" reports that Turkey is facing growing criticism over its decision to bring criminal charges against the renowned novelist Orhan Pamuk. The International Writers' Union (PEN) said in an open letter that 'this is not the proper approach for a country trying to gain access to the European Union.' Meanwhile, "Hurriyet" reports that Pamuk will likely be tried under the Turkey's old criminal code, as his comments were made before the recent changes took effect. Consequently, he would face a maximum of one year in prison if convicted, not three years as initially reported.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Hurricane Katrina; Egypt Elections

"More Powerful than the Superpower"
Sami Kohen commented in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (9/2): "Hurricane Katrina demonstrated the power of nature, and left even the US superpower helpless. But the US has enough resources and the capability to limit the effects of the hurricane. It is expected that the country's wealth will lay the ground for the victims to return to their normal lives within a reasonable time frame. . On the other hand, hurricane Katrina has had a serious impact on the US economy. The estimated cost of damage is around 25-30 billion dollars, enough to create a negative impact on the US economy, which is already going through a difficult period because of the Iraq war. The Bush administration has decided to use some of the strategic oil reserves, but a significant decline of oil prices from the current 70 dollar level seems unlikely. The impact of the hurricane on the American economy will create aftershocks on the world economy, including in Turkey. . The hurricane has also revealed another side of the US as well -- the country's overlooked problems of poverty and unemployment. Global

warming is also a problem that the Bush administration continues to ignore. There is one more fact that should tell something: Washington could not answer the calls from the three hardest-hit states for more security personnel to serve in the disaster area, because most of these units' personnel are currently serving in Iraq."

"The Disaster Teaches Many Lessons"

Hakan Celik argued in the mass appeal-sensational "Posta" (9/2): "Hurricane Katrina has left the superpower in a helpless situation. The only thing the US could do was to give an early warning for evacuation. There are many lessons to take from this, especially for those who force ecological change in nature. The US is one of them. Rapidly growing industrialization causes atmospheric gas emissions, which turn the global climate balance upside-down. . The Bush administration refused to sign the Kyoto agreement, and seemed not eager to join steps for environmental protection until hurricane Katrina. If the hurricane cannot push the Bush administration to change its environmental policy, there will be more environmental disasters ahead for humanity."

"Mubarak and Egypt"

Erhan Basyurt wrote in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (9/2): "Egypt continues to be the most influential and the most strategically-located Arab country in the Middle East. With its 3,000 years of history, Egypt is currently on the verge of organizing a presidential election with multiple candidates for the first time in its history. . The democratization goal of the BMENAI is one of the reasons for this development in Egypt. A democratic transformation in Egypt could create an impact on the entire Arab, and ultimately lead to an acceleration of the democratization process. The September elections in Egypt will be historic both for that country and for the Middle East. But it will be disappointing both for Egyptians and the international community if Hosni Mubarak were to be reelected."

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